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## Utah

Saturday, May 12, 1990

## Utah's overall cancer rate is lowest in nation

■ **Report:** Small percentage of smokers is credited for low rate. Incidence is 17% below the U.S. average.

**By Brooke Adams**  
Deseret News staff writer

Utah has the lowest overall cancer rate in the nation, thanks mostly to the small percentage of smokers in the state.

The Utah Cancer Registry has completed a report analyzing the incidence rates for the 10 most common malignant cancers during the 10-year period 1978-87. The report compares the overall state cancer incident rate to the national rate as well as individual county rates to the

state and national rates. It is the first time the Utah Cancer Registry has compiled 10-year comparative data on a county-by-county basis, said Dr. William P. McWhorter, director.

"It shows in general that it is good health habits that are responsible for lower overall cancer rates, particularly smoking," McWhorter said. "We can see the results of this even on a county level."

The report is being sent to physicians throughout the state, and will be submitted to the National Cancer Institute. Data in the study is based on number of cases per 100,000 people per year; all rates have been age-adjusted. Comparisons to the national average have a 95 percent confidence rate; state comparisons have an 85 percent confidence rate.

Utah's overall cancer incidence rate is 17 percent below the national average. In six of the 10 categories of

cancer the state average is significantly lower than the national average. Twenty-eight of the 29 counties in Utah have overall cancer rates below the national rate.

"The statewide data shows Utah has low cancer incidence in general compared to the rest of the country," McWhorter said. "It has the lowest overall cancer rate of any state I know of."

Utah and Cache counties have statistically significant lower overall cancer rates than both the state and national averages. McWhorter found no consistent geographical patterns for any of the 10 cancers.

Low smoking rates are by far the biggest reason for the state's low cancer rates, McWhorter said. Utah lung cancer rates are less than half the national average — 26.9 compared to 54.5. And, the rates for two other types of cancer associated with smoking — bladder and cervix —

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## How Utah compares

Type of Cancer	Utah rate	National rate*
Lung	26.9	54.5
Breast	83	95.7
Prostate	106	81.3
Colon	36.5	51
Bladder	11.1	17.3
Uterus	23.8	24.2
Cervix	6.8	7.9
Lymphomas	13.1	15.1
Leukemias	9.9	10
Melanoma	11.9	9.5

\* Provided by the National Cancer Institute's Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results network of nine population-based registries around the country.

# CANCER

Continued from B1

are also below national averages.

Two Utah counties — Grand and Piute — have significantly high rates of cervical cancer. Piute County's cervical cancer rate is 43.7 compared with the state rate of 6.8 and the national rate of 7.9; Grand County's rate is 23.6.

Utah ranked higher than the national average in prostate and melanoma cancers, McWhorter said. The statewide rate for prostate cancer is 106 compared to 81.3 nationwide; Utah's rate for melanoma is 11.9 compared to the nation's rate of 9.5.

"Prostate is an enigma in terms of what causes it, the natural history of it," McWhorter said. "No one has been able to find a large factor that causes it."

The prostate cancer rate was higher than both state and national averages in Cache, Emery, Rich, Sanpete and Sevier counties. County rates were higher than national rates in Box Elder, Davis, Garfield, Iron, Millard, Morgan, Salt Lake, Summit, Tooele, Utah, Washington and Weber counties.

However, McWhorter said there are good clues as to why the melanoma rate is high in Utah. Melanoma is a skin cancer that commonly occurs in moles. It is the most dangerous of skin cancers; it spreads quickly and is hard to cure, often resulting in death. Unlike many other skin cancers, melanoma occurs more frequently in young people.

Utah's population is composed largely of light-skinned people, many of whom tend to have moles, McWhorter said. The state's high al-

## County by county

Cancer incidence rates (per 100,000) by county:

Beaver	302
Box Elder	289
Cache	278-
Carbon	323+
Daggett	288
Davis	288
Duchesne	324
Emery	345+
Garfield	345
Grand	323
Iron	323
Juab	341
Kane	265
Millard	282
Morgan	350
Piute	384+
Rich	283
Salt Lake	310+
San Juan	215-
Sanpete	313
Sevier	301
Summit	307
Tooele	321
Uintah	297
Utah	274-
Wasatch	322
Washington	294
Wayne	275
Weber	291
State of Utah	298
U.S.	354

Note: + or - indicates rates that are statistically significantly higher or lower than the state rate. Some higher or lower rates are not noted because a rate based on very few cases may not be statistically significant.

titude and the outdoor lifestyle of Utahns result in high levels of sun exposure.

"This is a cancer that can be avoided by avoiding severe sun exposure," McWhorter said. "For that reason I'm glad the sun-tanning fad appears to be peaking, and that people are using lotions, hats and covering up."



GHOUISH FABLES.  
TALES FROM **THE DARKSIDE**

I LOVE YOU  
TO DEATH

YEAR'ROUND SWAPMEET  
EVERY SAT. & SUN.

AND

THE  
FIRST POWER

AND

WHAT WENT WRONG?  
LORD OF THE FLIES

NUNS ON THE RUN  
(PG-13) 3:45, 7:20

TREMORS (PG-13) 1:55, 5:30, 9:05

BORN ON THE FOURTH OF JULY (R)  
2:45, 7:00

BLIND FURY (R) 1:10, 5:20, 9:35

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ADULTS \$2.50 SHOWS BEFORE 6:00

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1

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298-2297

DRIVING MISS DAISY (PG)

1:15, 3:05, 5:05, 7:05, 9:10

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**VILLA**

466-6266

3092 SO. Highland

SEAN CONNERY ALEC BALDWIN  
THE HUNT FOR RED OCTOBER (PG)  
(1:15)(4:00) 7:00-9:45 DOLBY SR

**FLICK** TROLLEY SQUARE **2**

466-6266 7TH EAST AT 5TH SO.

KEVIN KLINE TRACEY ULLMAN  
I LOVE YOU TO DEATH (R)  
(12:45)(2:50)(5:00) 7:15 9:30

JULIA ROBERTS RICHARD GERE  
PRETTY WOMAN (R)  
(12:15)(2:40)(5:05) 7:30 10:00 STEREO

**COTTONWOOD MALL** **4**

278-4711 5001 SO. HIGHLAND

DABNEY COLEMAN TERI GARR  
SHORT TIME (PG-13)  
(1:30)(3:30)(5:30) 7:30 9:30 STEREO

WINNER 4 ACADEMY AWARDS  
DRIVING MISS DAISY (PG)  
(1:00)(3:00)(5:00) 7:15 9:15

SPACED  
INVADERS (PG)  
(1:15)(3:15)(5:15) 7:15 9:15

JOE VERSUS THE VOLCANO (PG)  
(1:00)(5:00) 8:45  
ERNEST GOES GO JAIL (PG) (3:00) 7:00

**COTTONWOOD** **3** 278-4711  
5-6-7

4890 SO. HIGHLAND-CREEKSIDE PL.  
DEBORAH HARRY RAE DAWN CHONG  
TALES FROM THE DARKSIDE (R)  
(1:00)(3:00)(5:00) 7:00 9:00 SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT NO PASSES

TEENAGE MUTANT  
NINJA TURTLES (PG)  
(12:45)(2:55)(5:05) 7:15 9:15

JULIA ROBERTS RICHARD GERE  
PRETTY WOMAN (R)  
(2:00)(4:45) 7:15 9:45 STEREO

**MANN** PLAZA 5400

**6**

969-6266 REDWOOD RD. 54TH. SO.

SEAN CONNERY ALEC BALDWIN  
THE HUNT FOR RED OCTOBER (PG)  
(1:00)(4:00) 7:00 10:00

JENNY SEAGROVE CAREY LOWELL  
THE GUARDIAN (R)  
(12:45)(3:00)(5:00) 7:15 9:30

DEBORAH HARRY RAE DAWN CHONG  
TALES FROM THE DARKSIDE (R)  
(12:45)(3:00)(5:15) 7:30 9:30 STEREO SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT NO PASSES

JULIA ROBERTS RICHARD GERE  
PRETTY WOMAN (R)  
(1:00)(4:00) 7:15 10:00 STEREO

TIMOTHY HUTTON NICK NOLTE  
Q & A (R)  
(1:00)(4:00) 7:00 10:00

SPACED  
INVADERS (PG)  
(12:45)(3:00)(5:00) 7:15 9:30